Export of steel

773. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has decided to export steel during the current year;

(b) if so, the quantum of steel to be exported country wise and when the decision in this regard was taken; and

(c) what would be its likely impact on the domestic market and how much foreign exchange India is likely to earn in the process ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) and (b) Under the current Export and Import Policy of the Government of India, export of all items of iron and steel is freely allowed. Steel producers/exporters themselves take decisions regarding export of iron and steel. Steel producers exporters have projected export of about 23.7 lakh tonnes of steel and 2.46 lakh tonnes of pig iron to various countries including China, Japan, USA, Sri Lanka, etc. during 1993-94.

(c) The likely foreign exchange earning from the projected exports of iron and steel will be about Rs. 2000 crores. Keeping in view the sluggishness in domestic demand for steel, the export is not likely to have much impact on the domestic market.

Visit of high level team to China

774. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a high level team paid a visit to China recently ;

(b) if so, the purpose of such a visit and whether an agreement was signed with that country for export of steel and iron-ore ;

(c) what was the quantum of steel and iron-ore expected to be exported from India to that country ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that transfer of blast furnace technology to India was discussed specifically with China; and

(e) if so, the outcome of the discussion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir. A five member delegation led by Minister of State for Steel visited China from 13th to 19th June, 1993.

(b) to (e) The object of the visit was to gain first hand knowledge of the growth of steel industry in China, to follow up the ongoing projects and proposals and to identify new areas of cooperation. It was aimed at assessing the prospects of exporting steel to China.

The trade protocol between India and China for 1993 provides for export of 1·3—1·8 million tonnes of iron ore and 10,000 tonnes of pig iron from India to China. The exports are likely to exceed the targets.

Although there is no formal agreement for export of steel to China, SAIL and VSP have exported steel products during the period from April to June, 1993 as under :—

SAIL	1·52 lakh tonnes
VSP	2·32 lakh tonnes

Indian companies have agreements with Chinese Companies for